

State of the Fleet

Federal Grant Monies Awarded to Clean Cities by Senator Orrin Hatch



Thanks, in part to the State of Utah Fuel Network, the Jordan and Alpine School Districts were awarded a combined total of \$200,000 of the Federal Department of Energy Grant monies which have been earmarked for use by Alternative Fuel programs. In a presentation held at the Salt Lake City and County Building on Friday, June 1, 2000, Utah's Senator Orrin Hatch handed-out six checks to local business' and government programs, all of which belong to the Salt Lake chapter of the Clean Cities Coalition. Of the 80 Coalitions nationwide, the Salt Lake Clean Cities Coalition received the second largest amount of the federal grant funds. The money will be used to increase the use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles (AFVs) along the Wasatch Front.

Both districts plan to purchase more Compressed Natural Gas CNG school bus-

ses. Alpine District is currently operating one of the CNG busses and plan to purchase three more busses with the grant money. The Jordan School District will be adding seven CNG busses to their fleet bring the total number of AFV busses to 25.

The districts are able to operate AFVs because both districts were equipped with rapid-fill CNG fueling sites after joining the State of Utah Fuel Network. Their sites represent two of the eight CNG sites managed by the Fuel Network, six rapid-fill and two slow-fill. Members of the Fuel Network also have access to more than 25 privately owned CNG fueling sites throughout the State of Utah. The State of Utah Fuel Network has been building an Alternative Fuel infrastructure throughout the State for more than five years. In addition to the CNG sites, all of the State owned fueling sites have

been equipped to dispense E85 fuel type when it becomes available. The Fuel Network took part in getting the \$75,000 grant received by the Clean Cities Coalition and the U.S. Postal Service to be used for the E85 infrastructure development program. After obtaining a number of E85 equipped vehicles in the area, Fuel Network Manager, Jeff Done was able to convince the private sector to offer E85. The grant money will be used to help area fueling stations purchase the equipment needed to offer this fuel type.

The Division of Fleet Operations (DFO) is also assisting in the alternative fuel effort by working with higher education to purchase the federally mandated amount of AFVs, for the State's Fleet. DFO Director, Steve Saltzgiver believes that if a demand for alternative fuels is created, the private sector will meet that demand.

"The state is very supportive of the AFV programs and we are doing everything in our power to provide quality Alternative Fuel Vehicles and a supportive infrastructure to fuel them. The state has been one of the foremost leaders in the Salt Lake valley in promoting clean, safe, alternative fuel choices. This past year, the division of Fleet Operations implemented a twenty-cent per gallon rebate to entice customers to consider using CNG. (Continued pg. 4)

Database Naming Contest Winner



Throughout the month of May, Fleet Operations (DFO) team members donned their creativity caps and submitted more than 25 entries for the Name the New Surplus Tracking System" contest.

The system will function much the same as the Computerized Automotive Resource System

or C.A.R.S., currently used to track the State fleet, except it will track what is being sold through the Surplus Property Program. The Surplus program operates as an investment recovery tool for the State of Utah, selling used office furnishing, electronic equipment and other miscellaneous items.

Mark Yeschick, who is the accountant for the Surplus program, submitted the winning name. A selection committee outside of DFO chose the name Property Listing & Utilization System or P.L.U.S. from an anonymous list of entries.

DFO Director, Steve Saltzgiver said, "This new name will be a compliment to our existing C.A.R.S. program. Thanks to everyone in the division for submitting all the great entries. Some were very creative, everyone who took part should be commended for their efforts."

Yeschick received a \$100.00 incentive award for coming up with the winning name. He says that he will use the money to spoil his wife, Kristy and eight-month-old daughter Kaylee.

Three New Alternative Fuel Site Opened

Representatives from both DOE and GRI were present at a site inspection in June of this year.

Three Utah Communities will breathe easier in the new century as the State Fuel Network announces the opening of three new Compressed Natural Gas (CNG) fueling stations.

The Network began putting the specs for the project together in the fall of 1997. By January of 1998 the sites had been chosen and materials had begun to roll in. 1999 brought the equipment into the picture and by April 2000 the sites were up and running.

Although headed by the Network, this fast moving project had many partners.

The Questar Corporation (the natural gas people) chipped in \$95,000 of the more than \$500,000 need to build the sites.

Questar had received a grant from the federal Department of Energy (DOE) for a project which Questar decided to cancel. Rather than return the money Questar requested that

the money be given to the Network to use in building the new sites. The Gas Research Institute (GRI), who oversees projects funded by DOE, approved the project and Questar employee's signed over the check and rolled up their sleeves. Several employees from Questar were instrumental in the rapid completion of the project.

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The Seltzer Corporation had some used CNG equipment available, which Division of Fleet Operations Director, Steve Saltzgiver was able to purchase through a sole-source contract.

(Continued on pg. 4)



Fuel Success...

Our Hero Bob

The State Fuel Network's, Fuel Site Technician Bob Seele had just completed a 12-hour day of collecting fiscal year end fuel inventory data. Pleased with the fact that he was ahead of schedule and may even make it home for dinner he turned on to State Road 30 to begin his 2-hour drive home.

Approximately 20 miles into his journey, Seele noticed a commercial charter bus had large clouds of black and gray smoke billowing out of the engine. Concerned for the safety of the passengers, he pulled over to see what he could do to help.

As he and the Bus Driver opened the engine cover, it was discovered that bus was overheating. The driver had 56 passengers in her care and no-way to get into contact with the company mechanic. Seele offered the use of his State cell-phone, the driver was told by the mechanic that the bus would need 5-gallons of water to get moving again.

Seele, again, came to the rescue. Without a single thought about how long his day had already been, he jumped into his truck and returned to the State fueling station to find a bucket and return with the much needed water.

After filling the radiator, cup full by cup full, he asked the driver to start the bus. Much to everyone's dismay, the busses batteries were dead.

Trying to keep the passengers light hearted, he chatted cheerfully while going through his truck in search of jumper cables. No luck, another hero would have to be



Fuel Network
Bob Seele fills
the radiator of
the stranded bus
in hopes of get-
ting the 56 eld-
erly passengers
back on the
road home.

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flagged down. Andy Peterson would be that hero. On his way to a holiday weekend fishing trip near Elko Nevada, Peterson pulled over and offered the use of his cables, and ice water to the thirsty passengers.

Seele hooked the cables to his State truck and began the 2-hour, unsuccessful, attempt at reviving the broken bus. A second call was made to the company mechanic and a request for a replacement bus.

Seele felt that he should stay with the passengers until the bus arrived. After all he would be their only contact with emergency services if the need arose. He settled in and got to know more about the passengers for what turned out to be a very long wait. (The other driver made a wrong turn and got lost.) There were three ladies from Denmark, two that lived in the U.S. and one that

was visiting friends and relatives in Hyrum. Several people from Idaho, one lady said that she knew there was something wrong with the bus when they left Wendover for their trip home. It turns out that her late husband was a school bus mechanic, and she had gotten to the point where she could hear a bad engine. There was a man who had, had a recent double hip replacement and a 92 year old woman named Anna. Most of the people traveled to Wendover, on the bus, together, each month.

When the second bus arrived he helped move luggage over the rescue bus. He began his journey home, once again, four and half hours later, knowing that he would be on the road again by 7:30 the next morning completing his fuel inventory duties.

(Hatch continued from pg. 1)

This program is a win-win [situation] for everyone and the benefits will help us all breathe a little better," Saltzgiver said.

Senator Hatch also announced that his is currently drafting legislation that would create incentives, such as tax credits for purchasing AFVs and building fueling sites that accommodate alternative fuel types. He hopes to make an official announcement of the legislation within the month.

"Like the Clean Cities Program, my legislation would increase the use of Alternative Fuel Vehicles, cheaply, voluntarily and without federal mandates," Hatch said.

(Fuel Site continued from pg. 2)

As part of the contract, technicians of the Seltzer Corporation assisted in the installation and testing of the equipment.

The new CNG fueling stations are now fully operational and available for use from State employee's, Questar employee's and all local governments and municipalities who currently members of the State Fuel Network.

The new sites, which are located at the Granite School District Bus Maintenance Facility, the Alpine School District Maintenance Facility and Utah State University in Logan, opened just in time, as both of the school districts were recently awarded grants from DOE and the Clean Cities Coalition, to purchase more CNG powered school busses.